

WEATHER FORECAST

PHILIPPINE WEATHER SERVICE (PWS) forecasts for the Philippines (9°N to 5°S, 115°E to 125°E) for the period September 24 to 30, 2006. The forecast is based on the latest available data and is subject to change.

For more information, visit the PWS website at www.pws.gov.ph.

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Second FRONT PAGE

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Area	Forecast	Remarks
Manila	Partly Cloudy	Light rain
Quezon	Partly Cloudy	Light rain
Palawan	Partly Cloudy	Light rain
Visayas	Partly Cloudy	Light rain
Mindanao	Partly Cloudy	Light rain
Other Areas	Partly Cloudy	Light rain

Magdalo escapee surrenders

By Alvin P. Pineda

THE MAGDALO group official who escaped from military detention in Manila last week, reportedly surrendered to military officials at Camp Aguinaldo last night.

Major J. J. Jaramilla, who was arrested along with the 100th Infantry in a last night's raid, reportedly surrendered to military officials at Camp Aguinaldo last night.

He is now being held in a military detention facility at Camp Aguinaldo.

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BACK TAXES

Gov't duns banks for P14B

By Gil C. Calacagan Jr.

THE ARROTO administration is looking to collect another P14 billion in back taxes and penalties from the special savings accounts (SSA) of local and foreign banks, according to the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The SSA taxes are on top of the P30 billion the government claims it is owed by local banks for the special savings accounts (SSA) of local and foreign banks, according to the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

In a briefing at Malacañang, BIR Commissioner Eduardo D. Alarcon said the government had notified the banks that it would start collecting the SSA taxes on Sept. 1, 2006.

"Up to now, it is still being collected in arrears," he said. "We are still waiting for the banks to pay the SSA taxes. We are still waiting for the banks to pay the SSA taxes. We are still waiting for the banks to pay the SSA taxes."

"It is not a good situation," he said. "We are still waiting for the banks to pay the SSA taxes. We are still waiting for the banks to pay the SSA taxes. We are still waiting for the banks to pay the SSA taxes."

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'Why indexation won't work'

THE ECONOMIC

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Ad valorem taxation gaining ground, says solon

By Corrie Pido

CLAIMING evidence that the government was losing potential revenues of P2 billion from cigarette taxes under the present system, sponsors of a bill for reform in the old ad valorem taxation said the measure was gaining ground in the House.

"Unless the ad valorem system will be approved now it gets on the floor for a vote," said Rep. Danilo Suarez (D-Quezon), who is a co-sponsor of the bill proposing to shift from the present specific taxation of tobacco.

He said that at least 90 representatives were now ad valorem supporters.

The House ways and means committee is conducting hearings on a proposal from the government to index the excise taxes on so-called tax products—alcoholic beverages and tobacco—on inflation to make sure government revenues.

In 1997, the country shifted from ad valorem to specific taxation of tax products when Congress passed the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program.

Under the ad valorem system, taxes are computed as a percentage of the value or price of a product.

Set amount per pack

In the specific system, the tax is specified as a unit of a product, but is a set amount for each pack of cigarettes.

Both systems have their advantages and disadvantages. The shift to the specific system was made in 1997 largely to plug the loopholes in the ad valorem system under which a certain cigarette company allegedly evaded paying tens of billions of pesos in taxes by under-declaring the value of its products.

This form of tax revenue can be avoided in the specific system since that, under the latter system, the tax rate stays the same even as the price of the product rises with inflation. To prevent this, the rate can be indexed to inflation, as the government is now asking Congress to do.

It was argued that the ad valorem system was "market-driven with government getting higher revenues every time the prices of cigarettes go up."

Another of the bill's co-sponsors, Rep. Francisco Javier (Luzon, Ilocos), cited the trend of increased revenues data showing that excise tax collections under ad valorem grew by an average of 12.46 percent from 1995 to 1998.

The average growth of revenue collections under specific taxation from 1997 to 2003 was only 0.53 percent, said Javier, citing the same data.

"The conclusion shows that if we apply the 1996 ad valorem tax rates to the actual retail prices and total amounts of all cigarette brands in 2003, government could have

earned P2 billion more than its actual 2003 excise tax collection," he said.

Javier also defended the ad valorem system from criticism that cigarette manufacturers can avoid paying excise taxes through price under-declaration and the use of marketing arms.

"All that the government needs to do is to conduct regular price surveys in the country's top supermarkets to determine the average national price per brand," he said.

The House ways and means committee has yet to make a decision on the various proposals.

The finance department and its members yesterday supported House Speaker Jose De Venecia's latest bill for P10 proposing the introduction of excise taxes, particularly because the bill calls for the removal of the distinction between old and new brands of cigarettes.

Lifting protection

Finance Undersecretary Grace Paladino told the committee hearing on Tuesday that the De Venecia bill would lift the protection of our cigarette brands that has put the government billions in foreign revenues.

She said when she first filed a request when the CTRF was passed in 1997. The bicameral conference committee at the time inserted a provision which prohibited the re-classification of the existing or old brands.

When House secretary Jose Solis Gutierrez, who sought the passage of an Indemnity law in 2000, estimated that the government has P40 billion because of the failure to re-classify old cigarette brands.

Citing the committee's price index for tobacco for 1998, 2001 and 2003, Gutierrez revealed that the foreign revenue from Philippine Tobacco from 1995 to 2003 was P28,000 billion, from Philip Morris, P13,172 billion, and from Sterling and Argyll, P1,511 billion.

Citing a survey by the National Tax Research Center, De Venecia said that many of the low-priced products when the law was enacted in 1996 are now selling at much higher prices and proposed that the tax rate be adjusted by 22 percent and thereafter be indexed to inflation.

The country's top two cigarette manufacturers—Famous Tobacco Corp. and Philip Morris Inc.—are opponents of the reform.

Philip Morris fears a revenue cut increase which is able to prop up for some companies to impose a uniform tax rate on all cigarette brands.

Rep. Marcellino Libanan (SPC, Eastern Samar) and Crispin Hermada (DR, Cebu) have filed bills providing for a P1 and P2 per pack increase, respectively, in cigarette taxes.

Reaction, issued by official House press officer Joe Tan, suggests a return to ad valorem taxation without indication of the tax rate to inflation.



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RP assured it is still top US ally vs terror

By TJ Raguena

THE USNS operations chief of the United States Pacific Command has assured Philippine military officials the country "remains high" on the list of ranking to be provided US assistance in the global fight against terrorism.

Mar Gen Gary North, newly headed USNSCOM operations director, made the assurance in Mal, Gen. Milenio Añas, deputy chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, in a meeting at Camp Aguinaldo on Monday.

North, who is making the rounds of Manila area commands, arrived in Manila Sunday on a five-day orientation visit. He is in the country for the first time since assuming his post in July, officials said.

"We said the Philippines is high on the priority list of USNSCOM," Añas said in a phone interview. "That is an assurance that we're high on the list to be given assistance in the global war against terror."

North's visit came two months after Washington pulled out its 10,000 troops from the island's withdrawal of its 21 main humanitarian contingents from Iraq in July to save the life of a Filipino truck driver who had been threatened with kidnapping by Iraqi militants.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Fernandez said last week he saw no signs of a backlash from the US over the pullout, citing the flurry of visits by US military and defense officials to the country to boost defense cooperation.

Añas, who received North on be-

half of Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Santos Alvarez who is in Beijing, said he expressed the Philippines' "appreciation" to the US command for its continuous training assistance to local military personnel.

The training programs include military-to-military exercises, exercises, intelligence fusion and public affairs training, among others.

North also visited American troops engaged in exercises with local troops in Zamboanga City on Wednesday according to Añas.

"We came here to see what kind of training the Pacific command was giving in cooperation with the Philippine government," he said.

North was also scheduled to meet with officials of the US embassy.



NEW CHAIRMAN OF PCSO

President Manuel Arroyo renews into office Sergio O. Velasco as the new chairman of Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). Looking on are Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, with Tito Norte-Velasco, mother Rosa Chusota Velasco (daughter of the late President Sergio Osmeña), son Juli and daughter Justina Velasco.

Erap faces return to jail for building rest house museum

By Armand Posadas

CRISTED President Ferdinand Erap has been released from jail at Camp Cagayan for violating provisions of a housekeeping order allowing him to be seen by his children in his home. The house is now a museum in Davao Road.

In 1998, Erap and his wife, Leticia, were ordered to vacate the premises of the now-ghost town of Davao. Erap was ordered to leave his home and move to a small, unadorned building in the area. The house is now a museum in Davao Road.

But Erap's return to jail was not the end of his troubles. He was ordered to leave his home and move to a small, unadorned building in the area. The house is now a museum in Davao Road.

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Family planning hotline clogged with sex queries

By Blanche S. Reyes

BLAME it on the Internet.

The Department of Health's family planning hotline has been turned into a question and answer service.

About 60 percent of the questions submitted to the hotline are about sex. The hotline is a toll-free number (1-800-100-1000) that provides information on family planning.

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Safety of Pinoy in Iraq worries RP special envoy

AMMAN—The Philippine Embassy in Amman has advised the staff of the Philippine Embassy in Baghdad to leave Iraq by the end of the month.

The special envoy to the Middle East also warned that the government would keep the issue on workers' deployment in view of the ongoing attacks, which are affecting the safety of some 4,000 Filipino workers inside Iraq.

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More Miles for More Smiles

2 Malaysians to testify vs Abu suspects on Sipadan

TWO Malaysians are scheduled to testify today against the Abu Sayyaf leaders who kidnapped them from a resort in Sabah, Malaysia in April 2003, Justice Secretary Rodolfo Duterte said yesterday.

Chief Justice Pung Hui Kien, also first Pong, and politician Mahd Juseid Salamat will testify against the leaders before the three

City Regional Trial Court for their kidnapping and that of 21 other countries from the Sipadan Island resort in Sabah, Indonesia said.

The two former hostages made a courtesy call to Duterte at the DOJ and were presented to the media.

"Pursuant to our original cooperation against terrorism with the Malaysian government, the

witnesses are in the country to testify against their terrorist abductors," Duterte said.

He said that, so far, only Duterte has taken the stand against the 27 Abu Sayyaf leaders held in Cotabato Region since in August.

Ellia, a Filipino coach at the resort, was also taken hostage when the leaders landed Sipadan

on April 23, 2000 and kidnapped tourists from Russia, Thailand, Germany, Lebanon, South Africa, Malaysia and the Philippines.

The hostages were kept captive in Jolo, Sulu, while ransom negotiations proceeded.

Duterte said the witnesses released on different dates only after ransom was paid.

"These and other terrorism cases are viewed not only by our countrymen but also by the international community as a gauge of our government's ability and resolve to stamp out terrorism and bring justice for the rule of law in our country," Duterte said.

"The testimonies of Kim Pong and Mahd Juseid Salamat are im-

portant because they would confirm the (leaders') contention of the crime (the gas) and establish evidence against the accused," he added.

Pong and Salamat were accompanied by Mohammad Badar Mohammed, Sultan, former Assistant Commissioner 1, and Goh-Loo Kok of the Royal Malaysian Police.



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ESCAPE FROM THE... You started the whole thing

JOY BAY

Escort girl's ...

JOY BAY

Quickly during past, he added: "I wasn't over, indeed, that I was not going to be married. I forgot some day, you know."

So would House members from Washington state not enter the small service center? Rep. Robert Auer (R-Iowa, 1st dist. of Iowa) with emotion, was a heavy laugh. And then he turned serious. "Whether that congressman is from Iowa or the West or Michigan, it's the dignity of this member House as an institution that is at stake here."

Rep. Gilbert Rios (D-Calif.) noted that Speaker's move would also compromise his own support. "I hope that's possible," he said, "a specific institution," Rios said.

House Majority Leader Rep. Porter Goss (R-Iowa, 1st dist. of Iowa) agreed. He called for the immediate disclosure of the congressman's name, so that "proper action" could be taken. Otherwise, he said, the accounts would "destroy" the whole debate.

Minority Leader Francis Proulx (D-Quebec) added that a disclosure would give all those implicated a chance to defend their actions.

House also-old Wednesday's Senate hearing that a member would have been among his clients, too, had not been mentioned at the time. Then so, he said, two other girls would take her place.

After, from the lawmakers on her list, she claimed, regular clients of secret services included "other congressmen, police generals, attorneys."

Speaker's sister said, it was surely because House who helped up a career by claiming that she had "married" a congressman, whom she did not name either. On Wednesday, House rejected her previous statement.

Speaker pointed out that Speaker's role was "a serious matter" because of the drug on her list. "That's the only reason of a lawsuit," he said.

In a joint statement, Representative Dennis J. Durbin (D-Ill., 1st dist. of Illinois) (D-Ill., 1st dist. of Illinois) said the House could not afford such a scandal, especially since it involved both sexual impropriety and drug use.

Speaker's sister said, for the proper identification, not only of the congressman but also of the woman concerned, "is necessary the suggestion that had been 'not an easy business'."

This, House agreed, would only be fit "to House members who were never involved in any sexual or drug use."

And then what? The Office of the Inspector General, which admitted it had no authority over lawmakers' conduct in this case.

Assistant House Speaker Dennis J. Durbin (D-Ill., 1st dist. of Illinois) said the Inspector General has no jurisdiction over any legislative complaints involving members of House of Representatives, the House and the Senate, or officials and personnel of Congressional offices.

Acting Inspector General said, that of having such authority to investigate and act on behalf of the "ethical" and "integrity" and "integrity" aspect of the law, he said, the Inspector General could not be asked to take action.

But if House's ethics committee managed to file a complaint with the office of the Inspector General, Durbin said, it would be then on, or then back to the leaders of the House or the Senate.

Durbin added that his office would ignore the ethics committee only if related criminal offense were committed—be it sexual, or if convicted or other lawmakers found the bill.

"It is a criminal case, there is definitely a commission of law," Durbin said. In this case, he added, no money should be able to testify that the money money directly from a contractor who previously accompanied the member of Congress concerning her services. In the official act, proving this would be easier said than done. Since this means "inside our transaction," he pointed out, all parties involved would be at risk. "Only a few would be a victim."



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HP PAVILION 6540 Desktop PC, 6540

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Cargo firm complains of ATO mishandling of flight at Clark

CLARK SPECIAL REPORTER: A flight of the carrier was delayed for 10 hours on the night of Sept. 15, prompting the American cargo firm to complain.

ATO said it was not responsible for the delay.

An ATO source said a technical air traffic controller (ATC) "made the mistake of directing the pilot of the flight to proceed to the ATO terminal in the last three minutes of the flight" at the still under test.

The instruction to approach the runway was apparently received. "The pilot said 'I was ready to land' and then the ATC said 'the runway is closed,'" the source said.

The apparent and legal arguments of UPS declined to comment on the incident. Another Philippine managing director could not be reached at press time.

Ramirez Reyes Jr., chief of the ATO in Clark, said he had no information on the complaint by UPS.

"No such incident happened," he told the Philippine press on Tuesday.

Source admitted though that two calls of ATO failed to get the cargo firm's approach cleared, another (ATC) was not working on the night of Sept. 15.

The incident, he said, was unlikely to happen because air services always ensure the issue of cargo and non-cargo ATO working on the night of Sept. 15.

He emphasized to press the flight log.

If the incident were true, it could be the second time that the ATO was left without control.

On June 26, ATO source said not one ATO could be reached by the cargo firm's approach.

The ATO was left in the hands of an untrained pilot.

The incident was the first of its kind in the area.

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ASSET FOR SALE
A man who claims a long-forgotten motorcycle is his mother's legacy announces the sale of the asset and that he wants to leave home.

ROUNDUP

3 men assault policeman

MANAGAS CITY—Three men assaulted a policeman after they suspected he was a police officer. The policeman was injured and taken to the hospital. The men were arrested and charged with assault on a police officer.

Man shoots wife dead

MANAGAS CITY—A man shot his wife dead after a heated argument. The man was arrested and charged with murder. The woman was taken to the hospital and died.

Cell phone thief nabbed

LAGUNA CITY—A police officer arrested a man who stole a cell phone. The man was charged with theft. The phone was returned to the owner.

Quince towns have no fire trucks

LAGUNA CITY—A group of 15 towns in Laguna have no fire trucks. The towns are asking the government for help. The government is considering the request.

NPA gunmen shoot, injure 4

LAGUNA CITY—A group of 15 towns in Laguna have no fire trucks. The towns are asking the government for help. The government is considering the request.

Tacloban health execs fear loss of docs to greener pastures abroad

By Jody A. Gubina
PHS Special Correspondent

TACLOBAN CITY—The city health officers have joined other health officials in the country in expressing alarm over losing government doctors to lucrative jobs abroad, with the recent departure of one of his doctors for a job in the United States.

Dr. Jesus Quinsac, the city health officer, said he feared that the loss of health officers in the city would reflect on some manner of the medical staff of the City Health Office (CHO).

"I am not saying that the loss of health officers is a bad thing," Quinsac said. "But it is a bad thing if it leads to a loss of health officers in the city."

Just last month, one of the city government doctors had left for the United States to work for a private hospital.

"I am not saying that the loss of health officers is a bad thing," Quinsac said. "But it is a bad thing if it leads to a loss of health officers in the city."

With one city government doctor choosing to look for greener pastures abroad, and with

the impending retirement of Dr. Antonio de la Cruz this year, the number of doctors in the city would now be just five.

"I am not saying that the loss of health officers is a bad thing," Quinsac said. "But it is a bad thing if it leads to a loss of health officers in the city."

For several years now, doctors and nurses have been leaving the country for greener pastures and high-paying jobs in the United States and Canada.

Heard health progress in the immunization was not fully achieved.

He said that the health services were not fully achieved.

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"Can you imagine, descending Mt. Malindang,"

Based on our previous dialogue with the concerned government agencies, particularly with Noda, the project (proposed Nara Convention Development Authority (NCDA)), and the Japanese collaborators, the role of Noda is limited to supervising the economic viability of the project," said Boston.

ISBIC NIT FREEPORT—Belizean Ship Administrator is opposing the realignment of the Belize-Clark bridge, Expressway Project (GCEP) being proposed by Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), saying the move would weaken the economic growth of his province.

But arguments moved back on Thursday when it came out the changes in design, which would impact Boston, will "practically exclude the possibility that Boston is becoming a part of the economic 'mainline' that can be derived from the development of the entire Clark corridor."

"The [national economic and development authority's] plan to bypass the province is totally unfair and greatly places us at a disadvantage," Hossain said.

"He said the plan would lay to waste 'every thing that we have prepared over the past years.' 'I don't think there's justice in that in alignment scheme,' he said.

Not his proposal that a straight path would connect Idaho and Utah through the mountains of Kansas and away from the populated areas, contrary to the original plan that it would pass

General and summing the alignment through the community would bring together efforts to the

The third data provided by Japanese respondents is change in the road's design showing that the construction of the highway through Betsu's municipality would substantially increase the use of the project as a route for commuting activities and relevant space economy.

"What I am attempting would not only isolate Russian herders, but based on the known cut-off dates, it will enable the project team to expedite and will assure herders delay in the implementation of the much-needed regulatory program," Rostov said.

The said the proposed malignment would damage the already forested area and would cut through Mr. Williams's pasture.



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Taxi fare hike takes effect in October

By Carlos S. Reinos

IF NEXT month, the flagman rate of taxis will be 190 for the first half kilometer.

"We are driving the meter by the taxi law here. I think there is support for additional flag down in Guatemala," said Mario Vilma Buitrago, chief of the United Transportation Professionals and Regulators Board (UTPRB).

Buitrago explained that the act would be put into effect by the third or fourth week of October.

"We need a 15-day public review, so the fare hike would likely take effect late next month," she said.

However, while the UTPRB is amenable to a 15-day review,

flagman rate of 195, it may not approve the other components of the petition of rate drivers and operators.

That drivers and operators are seeking an additional 50 cent taxi on top of the 195 for each kilometer beyond the first 300 meters.

Not all approved

Buitrago said, "Their other requests would not be approved as."

In exchange for the increase, taxi drivers change their inspection to the one that could save money.

With the shift to exempt taxiing meters, overcharging could be avoided, the UTPRB said.

But more importantly, it would allow the government to collect

the proper taxes from taxi operators.

A new meter was between \$7,000 and \$10,000 each and has to be registered with the Bureau of Internal Revenue just like each register used by department stores and groceries.

Once the meters are changed and registered with the IRS, then the government could actually impose a 5 percent tax on each operator and this is estimated to generate an additional \$1.1 billion in collection yearly.

The UTPRB had feared the vehicle requiring taxis to have no-escape meters in August 2005.

Over the last two years, it was approved, the only pending taxi law petition would be the one that came from the UTPRB.

She did not elaborate on the

request but stressed that the UTPRB was not drivers, especially those operating without a franchise, should refrain from increasing their fares.

"Hiding long-term meters by putting up high 195, before any new kilometers," said the UTPRB chief.

Current rates

The taxi fare hike was sought by the Association of Taxi Operators and Drivers in Mexico (AMOTAD) and AMOT.

Currently, taxi drivers are allowed a charge of 195 for every 300-metering blocks and 195 for every minute of waiting time.

The UTPRB allowed people and regular fares to increase 100 meters less by 19.50 and 195 meters less by 19.50 and 195 meters less by 19.50.

Since 2000, when the flag down went up by 15 from 175.

Buitrago said that before the taxi fare hike could take effect, the meter must first have been set up, confirmed by the UTPRB.

"This process is like getting a fare meter from a 'dilemma' to a 'solution'."

Transport Undersecretary Antonio Alvarado said the new tax metering system would help get rid of the chaotic system, improve the service of the taxis, and make it easier to use the system in transportation, and give the government additional income.

The bill said the government will have a very small amount of tax from the transport sector, including taxis.

Under the UTPRB circular dated 2005, the exempt dollar was

the same of taxi, address, telephone number, tax identification number, place number, color and address of the vehicle, and other information, including the passenger's name and the vehicle, license, waiting time and amount of fare in pesos.

\$1,000 fine

Operators who fail to comply with the rules will be fined a fine of \$1,000 or possible suspension of the certificate of public utility.

Comments saying the act would have a impact that they can see in minutes.

Drivers, as the other hand, could also benefit since they could already track down corrupting activity and use the information as basis in removing the boundary method.

NBI has new witness in Blanca case

By Lela B. Solovets

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has named the anonymous witness of two new witnesses in the Noli Blanca case. The new testimony could be used as a basis for a new trial to extradite key suspect Ray Rivas.

An FBI official who requested anonymity said that the witness, a man who he believed to be, gave his name in a statement to NBI in a meeting recently.

The new witness claimed that he was one of several people ordered to do surveillance on Blanca a few weeks before she was found dead, according to the FBI official.

The FBI official, who was present in the case, said the witness and his companions reported to the Atlanta Division in his home when they were working the case. The source refused to provide any more details.

Blanca murder history

Blanca (Christine) Jones, 28, was found dead inside her car on the Atlanta Expressway on Nov. 7, 2001.

A suspect, Philip Michel, was not an admitted knowledge of the murder. He then begged Michel, who was arrested by the police.

Ron Michel later requested his testimony against Michel, claiming that the police forced him into pointing to Blanca's husband as the killer of the victim.

Police Fred Michel, who then flew to the United States.

Investigative efforts by the government to have him extradited failed after the United States District Court decided that the evidence presented by the Department of Justice was insufficient.

The FBI source said that was evaluating the statements of at least two law enforcement officers who were used as a basis to settle the extradition case against Michel.

Mindoro lass accuses fiscal of molestation

By Phoenix, Cebu

A 17-YEAR-OLD student in Cagayan, Oriental Mindoro, filed a sexual harassment case against a Mindoro provincial prosecutor after the official allegedly molested her last week.

The complaint against prosecutor Nicolas Belmonte was filed before the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in Manila on Sept. 13, the day after the victim was allegedly molested at the prosecutor's office in Cagayan City.

According to her (and her mother), she went to Belmonte's office on Sept. 13, at 2 p.m., to accompany her sister sister Jocelyn (and her mother).

Jocelyn wanted to "follow up" a rape case she filed against three suspects last February and April.

The victim is the big witness to her sister's rape case, which had been assigned to Belmonte's office.

"After our meeting, she said that if they still needed to have a lawyer for the case. The fiscal told them that didn't have to," the victim's father recounted to the business last Wednesday. "We said he wanted to speak with the women by himself and asked [Jocelyn] to stay out of the case."

After said Belmonte asked Jocelyn to leave because he did not want Jocelyn to "influence" his answers to his questions.

"When we were alone, he asked me to stand in front of him and show him where the place was located," she said. He then started touching my private parts," the victim said in Manila. "I ran out of the room as fast as I could before he came back."

Suspect in Taguig murder arrested

By Nelly C. Corral

POICE arrested yesterday evening the alleged gunman in the killing of a politician leader in Taguig.

The suspect, 36-year-old, was identified by the victim's son who was with his father, Hefel, when he was shot. The suspect was arrested in the house of his brother-in-law, Mayor Antonio Sison, in Marikina City.

Based on the identification of the victim's son, the Philippine National Police's anti-terrorist division and also the president of the Council of Cities of the Southern Police Division.

Taguig police Chief Insp. Reyes said that the suspect, with his victims, was shot and killed in the house of the suspect's brother-in-law.

Shooting in fear

"The man was shooting in fear upon seeing the suspect," Reyes said. The incident was said to have occurred in the house of the victim's brother-in-law, Mayor Antonio Sison, in Marikina City.

The suspect, who claimed to be the brother of the victim's brother-in-law, was arrested in the house of his brother-in-law, Mayor Antonio Sison, in Marikina City.

Photographs of the suspect and the victim's brother-in-law were shown to the suspect's brother-in-law, Mayor Antonio Sison, in Marikina City.

Confession

Confessed to the killing of the victim's brother-in-law, Mayor Antonio Sison, in Marikina City. The suspect, who claimed to be the brother of the victim's brother-in-law, was arrested in the house of his brother-in-law, Mayor Antonio Sison, in Marikina City.

DOTC seeks MRT fare hike

By Carlos S. Reyes

THE TRANSPORTATION Department yesterday urged MetroRail to approve a 10% increase in fare for the MRT.

Transport Secretary Andres Bonoan said the increase is necessary to cover the operating costs of the agency and the 10% increase is necessary to cover the operating costs of the agency.

MRT said the fare increase is necessary to cover the operating costs of the agency and the 10% increase is necessary to cover the operating costs of the agency.

Second blast victim dies

By Liza S. del Peralta

THE BLAST that killed a 4-year-old child during a school in San Juan, Manila, also claimed the life of the boy's father yesterday.

48-year-old Anibal, 39, died in the blast. He was with his son when the blast occurred in the school.

Anibal, who lives in the same area as the school, was with his son when the blast occurred in the school.

He was with his son when the blast occurred in the school.

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The 1st Philippines-China International Exhibit and Conference on Urban Pest Control and Environmental/Air/Water Sanitation

MAPECCON Philippines, Inc. has recently developed a new concept for the first exhibit and conference on urban pest control and environmental/air/water sanitation.

MAPECCON is a joint venture between the Philippine government and the Chinese government. It is a joint venture between the Philippine government and the Chinese government.

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MAPECCON's founder and president, Gerardo G. Coto, Jr. (2nd from right), speaking at the exhibit and conference on urban pest control and environmental/air/water sanitation.

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Staff Editor: Canon B. Ebo; Editor: G. Dajab

All systems go for flood project-DPWH

By Jessica Doring

DPWH last item

This was the outcome of the Department of Public Works and Highways yesterday when it said it would complete 20 percent of the Caviteño (Caviteño-Malabon) Flood Control and Drainage System Improvement Project by the end of the year.

DPWH Secretary Honorable Benjamin S. Ebo said his office is con-

stantly in touch with the other agencies by 2007 to help overcome the flooding problem in the area.

Ecologists and local residents had blamed the perennial flooding problem, which occurs not only during long periods of rain but even during high tide, for the sinking of the Caviteño area.

Fifty years that used to be natural earth basins for flood water had also disappeared because of the mechanization of agriculture there.

Project director Ricardo Ca-

larcho said more construction activities are expected in the next three months after they had secured the writ of possession for some properties from the court.

No obstacle

The government had already secured the properties affected in the North Luzon Pumping Station project.

The station is a major component of the project.

Carlarcho said that with the

writ of possession already at hand, work for the San Roque Pumping Station and Flood-

gate for the San Roque Pumping Station, a special facility to receive treated water from the San Roque River for easy transport of ship and fishing boats, had been suspended since April because of right of way problem.

Despite project director Carlarcho said they were also expecting another writ of possession soon for this month

that would pave the way for the construction of the San Roque Pumping Station and Flood-

gate. "With all these developments, we can fast track the 100 work activities in the sub-sector of San Roque Pumping to attain the 20 percent target by the end of the year," Carlarcho said.

Turnover

Work on the flood control project that began last year has been turned over to private firms with

private property owners and interested parties who had economic-based issues.

In 2005, more than 6,000 of local families within the project's right-of-way area were relocated at established relocation sites in Bulacan.

Carlarcho said work on the San Roque Pumping Station was the most critical and urgent project. He said the project was implemented following the January 1990 agreement between the department and local government units.

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One apple too many kills worker

By Edward C. Tumbao Jr.

A 17-YEAR-OLD worker was killed, while on when more apples than he could eat, while on when more apples than he could eat, while on when more apples than he could eat.

He ate six apples and would have been full. He was working at the Caviteño Flood Control and Drainage System project.

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Suspected drug courier nabbed

By Nelson F. Flores

A SUSPECTED drug courier carrying a cargo of about 100,000 tablets worth P1.1 million was arrested by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and Manila police on Tuesday.

The arrest came in the wake of a US Central Intelligence Agency report claiming that the Philippines is a major source of heroin and cocaine to the United States and other western markets.

The report, which was dated in 2004, said that the Philippines is a major source of heroin and cocaine to the United States and other western markets.

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BUSINESS

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BSP keeps key policy rates unchanged

By Eric C. Dumile

THE MONETARY Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday kept its overnight rate unchanged, despite the recent 25-basis-point hike in the US Federal Reserve policy rate.

The BSP has not reacted to benchmark rate rises in a row of 25-basis points in July 2005. The bank's overnight borrowing rate is 6.75 percent while its lending rate is 6 percent.

It, however, stated that monetary policy tightening might be needed soon to curb inflationary pressures.

supporting economic growth.

"Inflation is expected to remain low in the coming months but the increase should begin to taper off by mid-2006, according to the four adverse supply-side shocks we've seen," BSP Governor Charge Carmelo Fuentes said yesterday.

"The average inflation is likely to exceed the 4.5 percent target for 2004 and 2005 as the full impact of supply-side pressures is reflected in price developments, but it should revert to the 4.5 percent target in 2006," he said.

The peso yesterday dropped to an eight-day low of 54.795 to 51.710 against the US dollar, as the widening of the differential between the Philippine and US rates is seen to be beneficial.

Fuentes said he expected the monetary tightening by the US Fed was not expected to affect the domestic inflation path, whether through the exchange rate or other channels.

"The BSP considers the emerging differential between the country's 91-day Treasury bill rate and the US 91-day T-bill rate

to be favorable," he said.

With the US economy gaining ground and possibly improving, the Federal Open Market Committee acted up the target for the federal funds rate to 3.75 percent from 3.5 percent on Tuesday. It was the third round of monetary tightening by the US Fed this year, after the rate was changed to a 45-year low of 1 percent from a high of 6 percent in 2001.

Asian Development Bank chief economist Rud Al said he expected interest rates in developing Asia to

remain quiet for the next 12 months.

Generally, interest rates in Asia are heavily influenced by the developments in the US," he said.

"The tightening in the US will also tighten the cost of capital funds which flowed to Asia from the developed countries," he said.

The ADB, in its economic outlook released yesterday, projected that the Fed would continue to raise its policy rate as a "tighten-up" move over the 2004-2005 period. By end 2005, it expects the rate to be 5.5 percent.

Current account posts surplus of \$1.93B

THE CURRENT account posted a surplus of \$1.93 billion in the three months of the year, up by 146 percent from a year ago, fueled by improved export performance.

In a press briefing yesterday, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Assistant Governor Oscar Guingona said that for the whole year, the current account was expected to remain in a surplus of \$1.48 billion.

"Exports are expected to expand by 10 percent in line with the projected demand growth in partner countries," Guingona said.

"Imports of goods are anticipated to rise by 11 percent due largely to higher trade oil prices in the world market and the demand for imported raw materials and capital goods to support the requirements of the export sector and the manufacturing sector," he explained.

The current account—which covers trade of goods and services, and transfer payments—is a key component of the balance of payments, which measures the foreign exchange transactions between the country and the rest of the world.

The first semester current account surplus helped the country post a \$60 million BOP surplus in the same period, a turnaround from the \$200-million deficit a year ago.

For the second quarter alone, the current account, as well as the capital and financial accounts, performed strongly following the

continued to



Stocks up
 DOW Jones Industrial yesterday led by gains from 29.25 and lost from 100.00 for 100.00, after the central bank said it was not meeting a 100-basis-point hike.

Investment news also bolstered by the Asian Development Bank, which raised its growth forecast for the Philippines to 5.5 percent for this year and 2006, from an earlier forecast of 5 percent.

The Philippine rate index ended 14.00 points at 10,000 points (up 1.143.00 points). The index has gained 21 percent so far this year.

"The economic recovery is strong. The government's policy of monetary tightening is being followed by the Philippine government," said a source in the Philippine government.

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Finance submits draft bill removing VAT exemptions

By Michelle V. Rano

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is moving to lift the value-added tax exemption of several products and services in a bid to shore up revenue collection of the cash-strapped government, and solve the perceived inefficiency of the country's VAT system.

The DOF has submitted to Congress a draft bill that seeks to bring down the list of VAT-exempt products and services. It is currently looking for a sponsor of the bill.

Should Congress approve the proposed bill, services rendered by lawyers and doctors will no longer be exempted from VAT. Some members of Congress and the Cabinet have questioned the VAT exemption enjoyed by doctors and lawyers, who are perceived to be earning higher incomes than other professionals.

"The economic team wants to remove the VAT exemption of lawyers and doctors because we need to level the playing field among professionals," Finance Undersecretary Grace Tan said in an interview with reporters.

The proposal also sought the removal of the VAT exemption enjoyed by the following: sale or importation of coal, natural gas, and petroleum products; sale or importation of raw materials for petroleum products; importation of passenger and/or cargo vessels of more than 5,000 tons; sale and importation by cooperatives, and sale and importation of printing and publication books.

"It is unfortunate that the full benefits from VAT cannot be realized in view of the many exemptions that have been granted to various sectors of the economy," the DOF said in the draft bill's explanatory note.

Tan explained that the "too many" VAT exemptions had distorted the VAT system, which was supposed to have a broad taxpayer base. The tax trail under the VAT system, which requires taxpayers to declare their input and output credits, is destroyed by the exemptions, she added.

By limiting the VAT exemption, the government hopes to plug the leakages that was partly brought about by the distortion of the VAT trail.

According to the DOF, the government lost about P144 billion from VAT leakages in 2003 alone. Of the P279 billion expected collections from VAT last year, the government's actual VAT collection only reached P135 billion. This translated to a 52-percent VAT gap, or the difference between the expected and actual collections.

McDonald's starts energy campaign

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NEXT time you eat at your favorite McDonald's branch, don't just ignore those paper placemats on your tray. They may just help you save some of your hard-earned cash.

Using its ubiquitous colorful tray mats, the fast-food giant will impart to avoid diners some energy-saving tips that will help the country bring down its electricity consumption and enable consumers to generate savings from lower monthly bills.

This public service effort, which will run from November to December, is part of the Department of Energy's Placemats project under its EC (Energy Conservation) Way of Life program.

The colorful tray mats will contain simple energy-saving tips, dubbed Energy-Saving Tips for Your Table, that can save households anywhere from P24 to P336 a month in electricity payments.

Some of the energy-saving

tips involve the proper use of appliances such as television sets, radios, hot irons, refrigerators, electric fans, electric stoves and air-conditioning units.

"This shows our commitment to saving energy. In our stores, we're already making various efforts to save energy. Now we want to disseminate information to our customers on how they can save energy as well," said George Yeng, president of local McDonald's franchise holder Golden Arch Development Corp.

He said millions of customers flock to the 240 McDonald's branches all over the country everyday. By placing energy conservation tips on the fast-food chain's tray mats, these millions of people would become aware of how they could help the government reduce electricity usage while generating savings for themselves.

An average of 2,000 people visited each McDonald's branch daily, he said. For the Placemats program's two-month run



at McDonald's, around 28.8 million customers should have at least seen the tray mats.

One example of how a household can save on electricity, as printed on the tray mats, is by replacing 50-watt incandescent bulbs with 15-watt compact fluorescent lamps. This can generate savings of around P24 a month or P1,790 in four years.

Another energy-conservation

tips to be printed on the tray mats has to do with ironing. The tip says ironing should be done only once a week, either between 4 a.m. and 7 a.m. or between 10 p.m. and 12 a.m. Thicker materials should be ironed first so that the remaining heat when the iron is turned off will suffice in smoothing out wrinkles in lighter fabrics. Savings should also run up to P24 a month.

BCDA president, directors take pay cuts

By Ronald W. Domingo

THE BASES Convention Development Authority yesterday announced that the salaries and benefits received by its CEO and directors were slashed by as much as 72 percent in line with the administration's efforts to cut expenses.

According to the BCDA, the annual pay of its president and chief executive Raula Calayca was re-

duced by 58 percent to a total of P1.79 million a year from P4.27 million. The amount, the agency stressed, included the basic salary and all other benefits.

Also, the BCDA cut the compensation of its directors by 72 percent to P20,000 a month from about P71,400.

BCDA directors include Alvin R. Capino, Rafael Julian S. Acena, Jemilto A. Manalo, Arden C. Se-

bastian, Gerardo R. Sosa, Isaac S. Puno III and Florencio F. Pedernal.

A resolution on the matter was passed last Sept. 22 to comply with President Macapagal-Arroyo's call for austerity in the wake of the current fiscal crisis.

The BCDA said the resolution would take effect on Oct. 1.

The agency was created in 1992 under Republic Act No. 7527. It is tasked to pursue the conversion of former and existing military bases into commercial/industrial hubs, as well as the promotion of the social and economic development of Central Luzon in particular, and the country in general.

Earlier this week, two top officials of state-owned Philippine National Oil Co. resigned in the wake of the controversy on the high salaries of executives in government-owned and -controlled corporations. They were Rufino Borraja and Jose Gargan, presidents of PNOC Ex-

ploration Corp. and PNOC Petrochemical Development Corp. respectively.

In a related development, the Solicitor General's Office yesterday said its pay rationalization plan assumed that the annual salaries and benefits of its officials were within the limits set by Malacañang.

SEMA senior deputy administrator Chito Cruz said Memorandum Order No. 20, dated June 25, 2001, specified that the actual pay package of officials should not exceed two times the standard rates for comparable national government posts.

Cruz said SEMA Chair Felicitio C. Payumo was receiving only P517,000 a month as he was giving P33,342 of his pay to a scholarship support fund.

Even then, Cruz said the SEMA had slashed the monthly per diem of its directors from P60,000 to P20,000 since the frequency of meetings were reduced from thrice a month to only twice.

AUSTRALIAN INVESTMENT PROPERTY DISPLAY

Trion (Phils) & Landlink Realty (Aust)
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Hotel Inter-Continental (Mktii)
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Duracom ownership clarified

MERCHANT power provider Duracom Mobile Power Corp. yesterday said the Lopez family had no stake in the company contrary to reports that it was owned by Manila Electric Co.

DMPC, in a statement, said it was majority owned and controlled by East Asia Diesel Power Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of listed firm East Asia Power Resources Corp.

Duracom is a power generating company that owns and operates two baseload diesel-fired large merchant power plants presently located at the Marikina Fishport Complex. It supplies electricity to Marikina.

Duracom executive vice president and chief operating officer Walden H. Tanabeo said that as a merchant power provider, it did not have the so-called "take or pay" provision in its contract with Manila Electric. Duracom does not charge a minimum off-take and Manila pays only for the power that it actually uses from Duracom generating plants, he said.

Duracom is the prototype of the merchant power utility envisioned by the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA), Tanabeo explained. In the competitive open-access environment envisioned by the law, power utilities may choose from several merchant power plants for their power supply requirement, which translates to more affordable rates for consumers, he said.

DA to oppose non-tariff barriers on tuna exports

By Christine A. Gupitan

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture will block attempts by the European Union and Japan to impose non-tariff barriers that would adversely affect the tuna export industry.

"There are calls of cigarette and no tobacco leaf standards that will be imposed by these countries. It will do our harm in the agency in block these efforts," Agriculture Secretary Arthur Puyos told reporters in the Philippine Science Building yesterday.

The DA, for instance, would file a protest case against Japan on illegal smoke testing and California's mandatory labeling requirements for fresh frozen tuna products.

"We are coordinating with the DA



"LAWMAKING" requirement
 demands RP tuna exports

Department of Trade and Industry is pending these non-tariff requirements," he said.

The Philippines is the world's no-

tioned exporter of tuna products, worth \$1 billion.

The country produces about 300,000 metric tons of tuna valued at more than P12 billion.

Tuna exports bring in P11 billion in foreign revenue.

"We said the government would look at alternative markets to reduce demand for the local tuna industry, which then can still focus on being resilient."

"We are developing new markets, like China, for Philippine tuna," he added.

"We also said we would work for better trade terms for the country's tuna exports."

The DA opposes a tariff of between 4 percent and 25 percent on Philippine tuna, which the European Union charges a duty of between 12 percent and 24 percent.

DOF calls for lifting of tax breaks of imported tobacco

By Michelle V. Rivas

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has called for the lifting of tax exemptions enjoyed by companies importing tobacco through economic zones and freeports.

The DOF said the government has lost billions in foreign revenue, considering the increasing volume of imported tobacco products coming in through these special zones.

Finance Undersecretary Brian Tan said the DOF would push for the legislation of the proposed, which would force part of government's efforts to plug tax loopholes and help solve the country's pressing fiscal problems.

Tan said House Representative Joey Salcedo and Senate Representative Franklin Lacierda, who both raised the concern in the large revenue losses have suffered among the country's treasury, planned to sponsor

the proposed bill.

Salcedo earlier estimated that the government was losing P1.7 billion every year in excise tax revenue and cigarette sales on cigarettes, because of the large volumes that enter the country through the Manila Bay Freeport and the Clark Special Economic Zone in Central Luzon.

Tan's Representative Joel Lujan, who chairs the House committee on ways and means, had an even bigger estimate of foreign revenue.

So under government budget law P1.4 billion a year, not only due to tax exemption, but also because of smuggling of cigarettes.

The legislators raised the alarm over the tax loopholes from cigarette during the Congress hearing on the proposed reorganization of taxes on alcohol and cigarette last Wednesday.

Malacañang transfers IPO to DTI

By Ramesh W. Domingo

MALACAÑANG has transferred the Intellectual Property Office from the Office of the Executive Secretary to the Department of Trade and Industry to further its 13-point economic program.

Executive Order No. 346, signed last August, said the transfer was necessary to make it easier for the DTI and the IPO to coordinate policies and programs.

The IPO was established to improve and implement state policies on the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights.

Last May, Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said the government would mount a mass registration drive of IPAs to help in the recovery from the "United States" loss of copyright revenues.

Purisima's statement came after the IPO accused the country on its primary watch list (PWL) of 100 countries under the so-called "TRIPS Report."

This groups countries into three classes: priority watch countries (PWC), watch list and Section 198.

Countries listed in the PWL are considered unable to provide an adequate level of IP protection for American right holders or products.

These listed are subject to fast tracked investigations and possible sanctions.

There are 15 PWL countries in this year's report, including Asian countries such as India, Indonesia, Korea, Pakistan and Taiwan.

Also, Executive Order No. 345, also signed Aug. 5, transfers the Philippine Intellectual Property Office from the DTI to the Office of the President.

The IPO was created under Presidential Decree No. 152, as amended, and was designated as a key agency in the implementation of the President Macapagal-Arroyo's 13-point economic development program.

LBP to raise P62.1B to pay landowners

THE LAND Bank of the Philippines would need some P62.1 billion to pay landowners for their land covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

LBP president and CEO Gary B. Irujo said in a press briefing that the bank would estimate the payments as the government could no longer subsidize land acquisitions under CARP.

"There is also the simple fact that the government lacks the money to pursue the agrarian reform program," he said.

He said the early good news was the recovery of P16 billion in foreign exchange wealth, the bulk of which would be used to launch the CARP which was expected to be complete, early 2008.

Irujo said the government has been aiming to acquire an under the program, primarily due to conflicts with landowners over the price of their property.

Landowners, he said, should not quote the market value for the property since the land would be given to farmers.

In another development, LBP reported that its outstanding loans to priority sectors reached P74.8 billion as of end-July accounting for 68 percent of the bank's P122-billion loan portfolio.

These priority sectors include small farmers and fishers, small and medium enterprises and agribusiness firms.

Julio Chion, LBP vice president for strategic planning, said these loans were channelled through more than 900 cooperative, community financial institutions and Quasi-Financial Credit and Guaranty Corp.

These benefited more than 250,000 small farmers and fishers. — Christine A. Gupitan



One stylish Sunday
in the Big Apple, DKNY
shows the urban way
of suiting up for spring
and summer 2005

Text and photos by Bela Ferreira
Contributor

NEW YORK—It is no secret
what the last two letters in
DKNY stand for. After all,
the people, places and life of this
famous city have continued to be a
source of inspiration for Donna
Karan for the past 20 years of her
career as a fashion designer.

A bright and sunny Sunday morning in
New York City was the mood for showcasing of
DKNY's Spring/Summer 2005 collection at
the trendy Photo Café where "Sex and the
City" Café and American Express are likely to

Continued on 11



NEW Park-motif: Pleated hooded cordigan,
stretch satin cambride with ribbon detail,
stretch jacquard front-pleated skirt



SHINE ON: Gold bag with ribbon straps



ONDERELLA: Silver-ribbon pointed pumps



CLOTHES on the line



PLAITS on the chest



DRESS and drapery



TULLE wrapup



FLOWER accent

Wang in a million

Text by Ann Y. Vergara
Photos by Joe-Gates PhotoLab

MANHATTAN fashionistas recently got a ringside view of the latest American import to hit the local fashion scene.

By introducing the various threads of American fashion to the local fashion scene, Vera Wang launched its new credit card with a fashion show featuring products by the Wang of the Moment. Wang's new credit card.

"It's a big day for American fashion," says Wang, who is the creative director of the brand. "It's the launching of our very first piece of domestic credit card. And since it's a plus-size card, we're trying to offer a variety of the best [fashion] options to the plus-size, including fine-tuning and fabric."

Wang's brand, which produced the show, collaborated with her own brand and style. Wang's brand, which produced the show, collaborated with her own brand and style. Wang's brand, which produced the show, collaborated with her own brand and style.

"We were hesitant to bring Vera Wang to the show, since she has always been known for her brand," she says. "There will always be a brand for Vera Wang, whether it's Vera Wang or some other brand, and it will be a brand for her."

Wang's brand, which produced the show, collaborated with her own brand and style. Wang's brand, which produced the show, collaborated with her own brand and style. Wang's brand, which produced the show, collaborated with her own brand and style.

The very quality that made her one of America's most sought-after designers of bridal gowns. It is a brand, right?

Empire cut, waist close

Wang's silhouette was other: empire cut or close to the waist, and paired up with such elements as draped silk, lace, satin, tulle, covered buttons and pleats on the chest area. A few layers and all should have been the same, and it was a close to the waist.

The silhouette Wang drew were mostly other: empire cut or close to the waist, and paired up with such elements as draped silk, lace, satin, tulle, covered buttons and pleats on the chest area. A few layers and all should have been the same, and it was a close to the waist.

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gray from her brand to the occasional element, the collection's color palette was also decidedly feminine. Wang's mixture of these were subtle and elegant, and her use of subtle colors and textures.

So Wang's mix of subtle and elegant colors and textures were subtle and elegant, and her use of subtle colors and textures.

It's Wang's brand, which produced the show, collaborated with her own brand and style. Wang's brand, which produced the show, collaborated with her own brand and style. Wang's brand, which produced the show, collaborated with her own brand and style.

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CLOTHES on the line

American Express launches its new credit card with a show of Vera Wang gowns

WILLIOTT collection

"We made it a point to feature each designer when and where the other [designer] will have the same or similar gown."

Each presentation is necessary, as Wang's brand, which produced the show, collaborated with her own brand and style. Wang's brand, which produced the show, collaborated with her own brand and style. Wang's brand, which produced the show, collaborated with her own brand and style.

They shouldn't be, he believes in some of them, their gown—how the appearance of the collection—like a red belt and more elegant than Wang's collection.

Wang's brand, which produced the show, collaborated with her own brand and style. Wang's brand, which produced the show, collaborated with her own brand and style. Wang's brand, which produced the show, collaborated with her own brand and style.



CLOTHES on the line



CLOTHES on the line



CLOTHES on the line

Donna Karan ♥ New York

NY suit house: Three sequined coats in marble and cream, polished patent leather jackets, stretchable full pleated skirts, shimmering polished denim jackets, silk wrap rompers in silk, lace-trimmed short skirts, skirts, stretchy mesh, also short skirts, white cotton pants, skirts, stretchy mesh, also short skirts, and sequined printed dresses with or without collars.

Donna Karan

the lifestyle brand.

A collection with New York character, it draws on graphic influences from the 1950s, from military-style patterns to menswear tailoring and cultural motifs.

DESIGN shown in the action may be cut up with leather and velvet, silk, silk pleated skirts, broad collars, tailored cropped jackets and crisp lines, not repeats, through classic denim, soft denim, airy draped tops, and in such details as floral prints and embroidery.

Colors of the season come in plastic, from the blues (pink, white, purple, brown, green, cream, off-white) and cream (gray, 2000's signature blend of modern, ethnic and suburban) to even evidence in the accessories: sandals, white, red, brown, beige, black, green, gray, navy blue and red, and high-heeled pumps that are practical and elegant.

DESIGN is distributed by Store Associates Inc. (SAY) stores are located in Greenwich, New York, Madison Mall, Chicago, and New York City.



BACKUP of fashion: Yellow pants, white high-heeled platform



NY order Spring: Hand embroidered denim coat in cream, eyes covered in white, pants in brown, pigment printed short skirts in white, gold orange brocade belt.



DESIGN hand embroidered contemporary detail



HOLAR sequined silver bag against coral brocade silk gorgeous leather dress



STREET is located with contemporary



URBAN DFC Pigment printed leather jacket in brown, white V-neck, cream, 2000's, 100% silk, printed high-heeled pumps

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

LIFESTYLE

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SERENA Williams

Serena's denim or Sharapova's tank dress?

RECENTLY, for several nights, I would sleep with one eye open and awake to Agassi, Roddick or whoever was kicking butt in court.

LIFE- STYLED



Tbelma Sioson
San Juan

It was the US Open, the last season of the year when tennis fanatics forego sleep and gladly wear eyebags just to watch their post-modern-day gladiators slug it out.

Of course, the finals were a dud, compared to the cliff-hanger semis and quarters, but still the action was irresistible on and also off court. The latter was thanks

to Serena Williams, who believes she should be winning in fashion design as well.

Style-watching on the tennis circuit has never been better. I've always been partial to Wimbledon's all-white, and like many traditionalists, I've always believed that there's nothing like white in tennis.

But then after the Williams sisters, the Russians invaded—the long-legged, long-torsoed, long-tressed beauties on the court who are fashion ramp material as well. I don't mean Kournikova, for unlike the men, I'm not into Anna Kournikova (I don't even care to spell her name right). I mean Maria Sharapova and her kind.

But before we go to Maria, let's follow the pecking order. The Williams first.

Serena certainly knew how to serve up a heavy dose of style. She wore Nike's stud-trimmed denim tank top and pleated skirt, knee-high black patent leather warm-up boots. It was glorious denim most of the time—admittedly the first time denim had a romp on the tennis court.

And then she lost.

Her sister Venus stuck to her Reebok endorsement (the biggest sports fashion deal ever, if I remember right), which I learned, no longer holds but she still wears nonetheless. Her Reebok tank dress, preferably in pink, looked all right except that she kept on tugging at the décolletage every time she'd serve that you wondered if it was uncomfortable.

Justine Henin-Hardenne (she lost—what's the world coming to?) had her Adidas polo shirt and skirt with its trademark aqua stripes.

Jennifer Capriati, for her part, was in pink Fila—and, in her match against Serena, wore a bit of makeup.

While I love Serena's superhuman tennis, I'm not sure I love the way she dresses on and off court. Too frilly for tennis.

In my mind, tennis fashion already had had its revolution for the century, and it was done

Style-watching on the international tennis court has never been this good

Skincare that makes menopause exciting

Murad
Resurgence
addresses
the
skincare
needs of
women
undergoing
a crucial
transition
in their
middle
years



MURAD'S Resurgence, a Murad Resurgence

By Angela Rago-Royce

WOMEN can't turn back the hands of time. Sooner or later, they have to face the reality: Menopause.

Yes, it is widely experienced but rarely discussed. But you may look at it this way: Menopause signals a shift from a very exciting phase of life, and women in the middle years may feel free better and enjoy life to the fullest.

With the new Murad Resurgence, a complete line of advanced products, women who have made the life transition now have a special regimen designed for their skin concerns.

To her look, "The Murad Method: Weekly Peel, Deeply and Restore Your Skin with the Protein's Water Protocol," cosmetic strategist Howard Murad points out that menopausal women will definitely notice changes in their skin, especially increased dryness and wrinkling.

"Women's skin is affected by the shifting balance of hormones just prior to, during and after menopause," notes Dr. Murad.



MURAD's Resurgence products, (from left) Resurfacing Cleansing Cream gently cleanses and exfoliates the skin, Age-Defying Serum inhibits collagen breakdown and increases elasticity to reduce the appearance of wrinkles and sagging, and Resurfacing Day Cream repairs skin pollution.

"Women who never had hormonal shifts may now find they now get pimples, as they have less estrogen to suppress the sebaceous-stimulating androgen stimulation in their bodies. For the same reason, they may have more hot flashes and other menopausal signs."

Murad adds that women just

menopause may have more visible skin damage, such as brown spots and fine lines. Murad's Resurgence products increase collagen levels.

To prevent the appearance of aging skin, Murad suggests a proactive skin care regimen.

The regimen

In three decades of clinical experience and after careful review, one of his patients, Dr. Murad discovered that there are four key steps to proper skin care that can actually fight the hormonal aging. Cleansing, toning, treating and repairing, and moisturizing and protecting.

Murad's Resurgence offers naturally-based formulas to gently ease the symptoms of menopause, and helps restore hydration and vibrancy to the skin.

"Murad skin care products have been designed specifically for perimenopausal, menopausal and postmenopausal women, as well as those with their skin needing moisture," says Christine White, brand manager for Murad products.

Under the Resurgence line are four topical products that cleanse, tone, repair and moisturize.

Resurfacing Cleansing Cream (100 ml) is a cleanser, pre-soaked cleansing cream that contains apricot oil, evening primrose oil and Squalene and oil to enhance hydration, it has papaya enzymes to provide gentle, natural exfoliation.

Age-Defying Serum (30 ml) is an anti-aging treatment that firms and firms. This silky serum with soy, wild rose extract, and collagen, proteinates inhibits collagen breakdown and increases elasticity to reduce wrinkles and sagging.

Sheet Mask Day Moisture SPF 15 (100 ml) helps lock skin moisture. As a result, morning primrose and Squalene and oil help soothe dry skin, while the natural phytonutrients and papaya enzymes, wild rose, and chamomile flower extract increase firmness.

Age-Defying Night Cream (100 ml) is a rich cream that contains chamomile extract, clinically proven to slow facial hair growth by 22 percent in 12 weeks. A complex of omega-3 oils, shea butter and coenzyme Q10 and retinol to reduce skin lesions and wrinkles.

Dr. Murad also formulated an oral supplement to help balance internal symptoms. Calming

Highlighting Supplement (30 capsules) for menopause that is in dryness, reduces, reduces in body and promotes deep cleansing. It contains vitamins and phytonutrients: evening primrose, wild rose, licorice root, and ginseng root and other plant oils.

Resurgence's Murad's Resurgence, Dr. Murad has been a leader in skin care for decades, and he knows by their effectiveness. "I find Murad's products, face and hair, are amazing. They don't irritate my skin, they really do work. I can still combine Murad's products with other skin care products without experiencing any harsh or drying effect," Sonoma claims.

Resurgence's Murad's Resurgence C Moisturizer and Resurgence's Serum for Daytime use. At night, she uses the Resurgence's Serum, Toner and Moisturizer. "Murad's Resurgence makes my skin firmer and supple when I wake up to be smiling. Also, my wrinkles disappear every time I use Murad's Resurgence."

The whole line of Murad Resurgence is exclusively available at Murad's location in Manhattan and Atlanta.

Resurgence treatment

Case Studies: The Murad line, a skin treatment system in the 8th level of Murad's location in Manhattan, will offer Resurgence Resurgence's (a) a specialized Resurgence treatment which gradually brings back the skin firmness, reduces skin lesions and reduces the appearance of wrinkles.

The treatment basically starts with cleansing to remove dirt from the pores, followed by toning, which acts as an exfoliant that removes traces of dirt from the skin and leaves the pores tightened. A soothing massage cream is applied to the face, neck and décolleté to repair and restore damaged skin. The moisturizing cream is applied last, locking the newly-prepared skin protected and hydrated, in permenous dryness and irritation.

The Murad line in Manhattan's location has been a success, a consultation area and skin assessment for clients.

Dr. Murad will be back in the Philippines in November to give a series of lectures and one-on-one consultations. Call: EPOC (02) 88005553 (02) 8800553.



AGE-DEFYING Night Cream contains chamomile extract, which slows down new facial hair growth.

SHEET Mask Day Moisture SPF15 hydrates, soothes and provides skin care.